

Application Serial No. 10/791,165
Amendment dated April 21, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated January 10, 2006

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1a, 1e, 34, 5, 9 and 10. These sheets, which include Figs. 1a-11 replace the original sheets including Figs. 1a-11.

Enc. Replacement Drawings
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the restriction requirement, Claims 1-33 are hereby elected. Furthermore, the species of Figs. 1a-1e is elected. Claims 2-11, 18-20, 22, 23, 30-33, 44 and 45 read on the elected species.

Both the drawings and specification have been amended to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner. In this regard, a set of replacement drawings is submitted together with a set of drawings marked up to show the changes that were made.

With regard to the objection to the reference characters such as "11.2, 11.3...11.10", this format was adopted because the reference numerals relate to common structure, such as the opening 11 in Fig. 1a, but wherein the opening has been modified in various ways throughout the subsequent drawings. Therefore, the prefix of the reference number relates to the common element and the suffix number relates to the figure number showing the particular configuration of the modification. This numbering scheme is described in revised paragraph 35 of the specification. It is submitted that this numbering scheme provides clarity and is appropriate for the manner in which the various modifications of the claimed structure are described. It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner and specifically to clarify the distinction between the bushing, the fixing material and the opening. Note is made that the term "slot" has been changed to --opening-- throughout the application because this is a more appropriate term given the disclosed structure and is consistent with the proper translation of the term from the German text.

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The "front" and "back" sides are now referenced relative to the side from which the pins extend.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for substantive examination.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Hoffman
Registration No. 26,280
Attorney for Applicants

JFH/nw

BAKER & DANIELS LLP
111 East Wayne Street, Suite 800
Fort Wayne, IN 46802
Telephone: 260-424-8000
Facsimile: 260-460-1700

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CERTIFICATION OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: April 21, 2006

JOHN F. HOFFMAN, REG. NO. 26,280
Name of Registered Representative

Signature
April 21, 2006
Date